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PROGRAM INFORMATION BULLETIN NO. P14-04

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SUBJECT: Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Program Directives
Revalidation for CY 2014

Scope

This Program Information Bulletin (PIB) is for all MSHA Program directives holders within MSHA, mine operators, independent contractors, miners' representatives, and other interested parties.

Purpose

The purpose of this PIB is to provide the results of the annual MSHA directives revalidation review, and to advise MSHA employees, mine operators, independent contractors, miners' representatives, and other interested parties of which enforcement policies and procedures remain in effect. This PIB announces that MSHA will publish Program Policy Letters (PPLs) and Procedures Instruction Letters (PILs) as permanent directives with no expiration dates. In addition, this PIB removes the expiration dates for the PPLs and PILs listed in Attachment 1. Finally, this PIB lists directives which have been cancelled and are no longer valid as of the effective date of this bulletin.

Information

In the past, there has been confusion over which policies and procedures were in effect, because many times valid policies and procedures were temporarily cancelled when the PPL or PIL expired and there was a delay in reissuing the directives. By no longer listing expiration dates this problem is eliminated. Directives will continue to be reviewed through a revalidation process and cancelled when they become obsolete.

In the attached listings, this PIB also provides the results of the annual directives revalidation process for MSHA's Program Directives for Calendar Year 2014. The first attachment provides an index of the most recent revisions to the Program Policy Manual Volumes and Program Handbooks, and lists the current valid Program Policy Letters (PPLs), Procedures Instruction Letters (PILs), and Program Information Bulletins (PIBs). The expiration dates for the PPLs and PILs listed in Attachment 1 have been removed. The second attachment lists those PPLs, PILs, and PIBs that have been

cancelled as a result of the revalidation process. They are no longer considered valid enforcement guidance and are cancelled effective on the issue date of this bulletin.

Background

Volume II, Chapter 100 of MSHA's Administrative Policy and Procedures Manual (not available to the public) outlines the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Directives System and defines the purpose, responsibilities, structure, and procedures involved in the formulation, distribution, and maintenance of directives within the Agency.

The MSHA Directives System includes a revalidation process where all directives must be reviewed periodically to ensure the currency of their contents. As part of this revalidation process, the reviewers and policy coordinators determine whether the particular directive is still valid, whether it has been superseded by another issuance, or whether it needs to be updated to reflect changes in technology, regulations, organizational structure, or policy.

The most recent revalidation of directives for Calendar Year 2014 was conducted with the Program Policy Coordinators of each MSHA Program Office and was coordinated by the new Centralized Directives Program in the Office of Program Policy and Evaluation.

Authority

The Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 [30 U.S.C. 801 et seq.] as amended by the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006 ("MINER Act") [Pub. L. 109-236].

Internet Availability

This PIB may be viewed on the Internet by accessing MSHA's Home Page (<http://www.msha.gov>) and then choosing "MSHA's Major Laws, Regulations, and Policies" and "Compliance Information (PIBs, PILs, the PPM, and More)" and "Program Information Bulletins."

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Distribution

MSHA Program Policy Manual Holders
Mine Operators
Miners' Representatives

Independent Contractors
Special Interest Groups

Attachments